

NYU Prague Advisory Committee Agenda

Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 11:00 am New York / 5:00 pm Prague / 8:00 pm Abu Dhabi

383 Lafayette Street, #C06

Attendees:

In Person:

- Chair: Aurora Wallace* (Steinhardt)
- Eliot Borenstein (FAS - Russian and Slavic Studies)
- Lamar Sanders (Tisch)
- David Schroeder (Steinhardt)
- Thomas Ertman (CORE/Sociology)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)
- Janet Alperstein (Global)
- Nancy Morrison (Global)
- Mohamad Bazzi (Journalism)

Phone/Video Conference:

- Jiri Pehe (Site Director)
- Gwentyth Bravo (NYUAD)

Committee Business and Announcements

The meeting commenced with introductions of committee members. Eliot Borenstein announced the release of a report by the Faculty Working Group on Global Learning Objectives (GLO). The GLO Working Group first convened in October 2016 for the purpose of having a faculty-driven conversation about global learning objectives. Comprising 17 faculty members from across the university, the committee met 8 times during the 2016-2017 academic year.

In May 2017, the committee issued a report on its findings (available on the NYU website [here](#)). The report articulates proposed learning objectives for study away for students across all disciplines so that the University can ensure program alignment and begin to measure its success in meeting these objectives.

The report was discussed at the Fall 2017 site directors meetings, and in Spring 2018 it will be featured and discussed in a series of "global conversations" among faculty convened by Professor Eliot Borenstein, a member of the Working Group and the Senior Academic Convener for the Global Network. As a leading institution in global education, NYU is well positioned to be advancing thinking and practice in this area, as well.

Data Packet

- As noted, the enrollment numbers for the Fall and Spring semesters are becoming more balanced. Janet Alperstein offered to meet with academic departments who are concerned about individual course enrollments, as she has done with Tisch.
- Total number of students to attend NYU Prague is not expected to change from 140. However, the cohort of Stern students has decreased from what may be a result from the change in Stern's recruitment cycle.
- Several humanities courses were cancelled last semester but the decrease in Stern should improve enrollment in humanities courses.
- CORE substitutions approved by Stern and Steinhardt have helped more students take wider range of classes. For example, schools currently have the lists of courses they approve for Expressive Cultures CORE. It was expressed that there might be some concern about schools providing course approvals by the CORE steering committee.

Fall 2017 Site Director Report

Jiri Pehe, Site Director, reviewed highlights of the Site Directors Report, which had been distributed in advance. Areas of note include:

- Jiri praised the Global Student Ambassador program stating that it is a very useful tool to have every semester to gather student feedback and to get students to attend various events.
- Jiri announced that former Assistant Director for Student Life Martina Faltova is now working at NYU Paris and they have hired Yveta Kenety as the Assistant Director for Student Life in Prague. Yveta previously taught survival Czech courses during NYU Prague orientation and has established relationships with various organizations in the Czech Republic especially some that work with minorities such as the Roma.
- Operationally Jiri informed the committee that a 5-year extension on the current lease was signed for one of the dorms and the academic center.
- Academically two part-time lecturers were replaced for consistently low evaluations. NYU Prague and Janet Alperstein continue to work closely with the departments to improve courses.
- In working to implement university wide priorities on diversity, equity, and inclusion, Jiri described the progress made from workshops and panels organized for lecturers which they would like to continue to develop in conjunction with Krystal McLeod's committee.
- There are two internship programs at NYU Prague. Jiri mentioned the development of new relationships for the non-credit internship. NYU Prague has seen an uptake in for-credit internships through EUSA program, which will be evaluated more closely in the next few years.

- Jiri is pleased to announce the European FORUM Conference on Education Abroad to be held at NYU Prague in October 2018. They encourage students to participate. Students also participate in the Prague Media Point- Annual international conference.

Other Initiatives

- Faculty trip planned to Prague in January 2018
- J-Term Programs with Abu Dhabi

Program Evaluations

- The Program Evaluations, developed by a committee comprising faculty and site directors, were first administered to the global sites in Spring 2015, and have since undergone extensive changes to ask more targeted questions and to shorten and clarify the survey.
- Committee members noted that the student feedback indicated that NYU Prague was above average in most areas. Indeed, 99% of students report that they would recommend the site to their peers. Jiri was proud of the overall numbers, but noted that the site would like to advance conversations about immersion and global community.

Other Handouts and Announcements

- Shanghai will soon begin to offer French and Spanish language courses which they expect will improve the number of students who study at the global sites which offer those languages. It will also allow students to take advantage of higher level language courses and internships that require at least an intermediate language level. They plan to add German language courses next.
- Shanghai has also added online courses in general.

Next Steps:

- Janet Esclamado will provide syllabus for 2-credit course History in the Headlines to Tisch.